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(54) Title: STANDARDIZED BINDING ELEMENTS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a group of standardized plastic binding elements that include two, three, four, five, or seven fingers that are spaced along the spine at precise locations to accommodate the perforations spaced according to specific standardized loose-leaf hole patterns. The binding elements preferably have spines likewise corresponding to at least the length of specific standardized paper sizes, i.e., 8.27 inches, 8.5 inches, 11 inches, 11.69 inches, 14 inches, and 16 inches. The fingers of the binding elements either secure together or to the spine when in the closed position, or the binding elements are held in the closed position by other structure such that the binding elements may be utilized to bind a stack of standard, loose-leaf sheets without the use of a binding machine. Further, the invention provides a relatively small size binding element that may be utilized to provide a relatively small bound book wherein the pages can be turned without binding.



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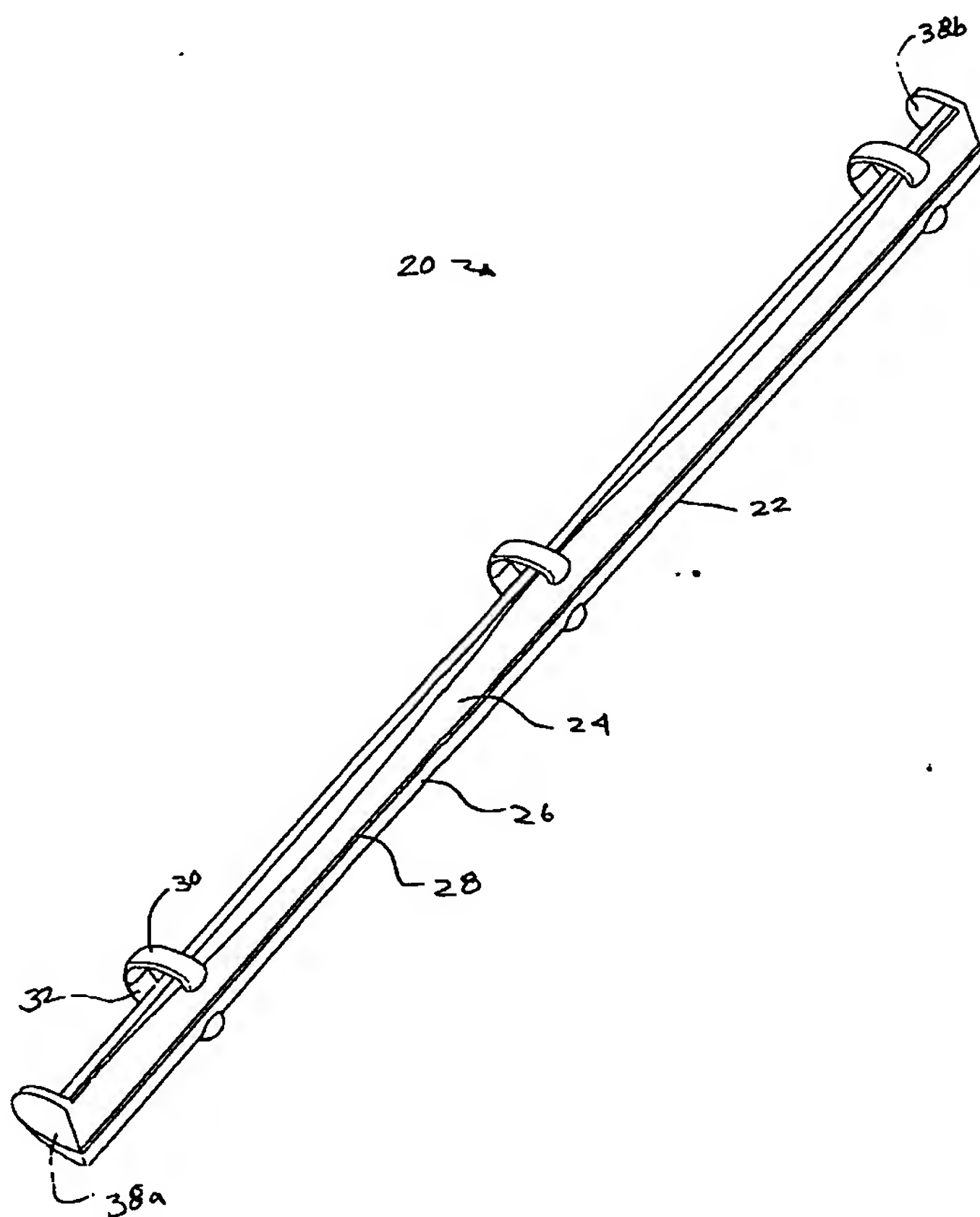
IL 60646 (US). **MAGID, Jason** [US/US]; 6326 W. Raven, Chicago, Illinois, 60646 (US). **CRUDO, Phillip, M.** [US/US]; 250 West Prairie Lane, Round Lake, IL, 60073 (US). **MCMANUS, Amy** [US/US]; 3151 North Lincoln Avenue, #211, Chicago, IL 60657 (US). **JONES, Daniel, C.** [US/US]; 1814 Fieldstone Ct., Romeoville, IL 60446 (US).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 552 478 A (COHEN LEWIS) 12 November 1985 (1985-11-12)	1
Y	column 5, line 3 -column 8, line 65; figures	2
Y	FR 2 215 042 A (GRATELLA LTD) 19 August 1974 (1974-08-19) page 5, line 10 -page 10, line 37; figures	2
Y	GB 929 482 A (MULLER JACQUES) 26 June 1963 (1963-06-26) page 2, line 32 -page 3, line 10; figures	1
A	US 2 460 718 A (BROOKS STEVENS CLIFFORD) 1 February 1949 (1949-02-01) column 2, line 5 -column 4, line 34; figures	1,2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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H document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

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NL-2280 HV Rijswijk

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